

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/786,960

Applicant(s)

TANAKA ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Tuan V. Thai

2186

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to preliminary amendment filed 11/28/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 23-37 renumbered as 1-4, 6, 5, 7-12, 14, 13 and 15 respectively.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/130,818.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

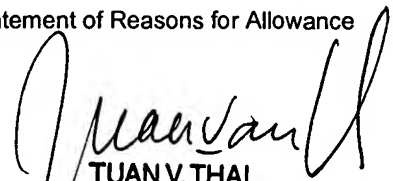
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 2/25/04; 6/10/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


TUAN V. THAI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Application/Control Number: 10/786,960

Art Unit: 2186

Attorney's Docket No.: 81788.0265

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND
TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Tanaka et al. Group: 2186
Serial No.: 10/786,960 Examiner: Tuan Thai
For: **METHOD FOR CONTROLLING NON-VOLATILE SEMICONDUCTOR
MEMORY SYSTEM.**

1. This action is responsive to preliminary amendment filed on November 28, 2005. Claims 1-22 have been canceled. Claims 23-37 are now allowed.

2. The foreign Japanese prior arts listed on the PTO-1449 (June 10, 2004) have not been considered. There is no apparent nexus between the Abstracts of the cited Japanese prior art and the current claims, it would be improper to indicate consideration of the foreign language documents absent a concise statement of relevance. Therefore, only the English language abstracts of the listed Japanese patent documents have been considered.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for

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Allowance:

The prior arts of record; particularly the closest prior art of Sredanovic et al., does not teach or suggest, alone or in combination, **all** the combined limitations of the claims (claims 23 and 30) of the current invention. Particularly, the prior art of record do not teach or suggest a nonvolatile semiconductor being is divided into two separate zones, a first and a second zone wherein a first logical block address corresponding to a first physical block address in the first memory zone, and a second logical block address corresponding to a second physical block address in the second memory zone; determining if the second logical address is within the first memory zone and generating a second address translation table for the second memory zone if the second logical block address is not within the first memory zone. This implementation would allow the address translation table to be smaller than that of the conventional system for the complete memory. In light of the foregoing, claims 1 and 30 of the present application are found to be patentable over the prior arts.

Claims 24-29 and 31-37 further limit the allowable independent claims 23 and 30. These claims are therefore allowable for the same reason as set forth above.

Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be

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submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

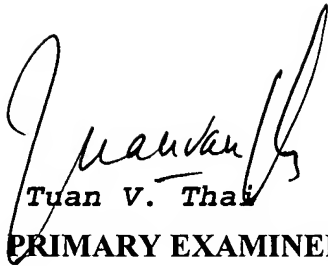
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan V. Thai whose telephone number is (571)-272-4182. The examiner can normally be reached on from 6:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mathew M. Kim can be reached on (571)-272-4187. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TVT/December 07, 2004

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Tuan V. Thau
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Group 2100